

MS “At-a-Glance” (Geophysics)

Requirements

1. Satisfy background (“deficiency”) coursework requirements specified for you at admission by the Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC).
2. Complete 38 credit hours beyond the Bachelors Degree, approved by your committee, as follows
 - a. Transfer up to 9 credits of graduate-level courses not used for a Bachelor Degree at another institution.
 - b. Complete 12 research credits (GPGN705) under a CSM faculty advisor.
 - c. Complete the following required courses:
 - i. LICM515 Professional Oral Communication (1 credit)
 - ii. GPGN581 Graduate Seminar (1 credit) ⁽²⁾
 - d. Count no more than 9 hours of CSM 400-level courses for grad credit
 - e. You have the option to complete a minor, consisting of 9 credit hours of approved coursework outside Geophysics.
 - f. You may choose to receive your MS degree in Geophysical Engineering, rather than Geophysics, if you enter with a bachelors degree in engineering or complete 16 hours of engineering coursework during graduate study.
3. Achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
4. Apply for Admission to Candidacy and reduced “thesis-only” tuition.
5. Propose, research, write and defend a thesis on original work that results in new knowledge and/or techniques. ⁽³⁾

Notes

1. Target completion time for MS in Geophysics is 4 semesters.
2. MS students enroll in GPGN581 only their first semester at CSM, but attend Heiland Lecture every week until graduation. A GPGN581 grade is awarded after students give a presentation of their thesis research. Credit is awarded in the semester the student graduates.
3. Submit final draft of thesis to committee and Dept. Head at least 3 weeks before defense.

MS “At-a-Glance” (Geophysics)

Recommended Timeline for Success

What	By When
Meet with interim advisor re deficiency courses and registration	Upon arrival at CSM
Make formal appointment of advisor & committee Obtain committee approval of planned coursework	mid 1 st semester ⁽¹⁾
Choose thesis topic	2 nd semester
Complete prereq. & core curriculum requirements Submit application for candidacy	Start 3 rd semester ⁽²⁾
Complete coursework, register for thesis-only reduced tuition	ASAP ⁽³⁾
Submit a thesis outline to committee for approval	Early 3 rd semester
Begin writing thesis	3 rd semester
Finish thesis research	mid 3 rd semester
Submit final thesis draft to committee & schedule defense	≥ 3 weeks before defense
Defend thesis	mid 4 th semester
Submit application for graduation to Grad Office	Grad. Office deadline
Complete thesis revisions and check out	After successful oral defense
GRADUATE !!	End 4 th semester
Attend Geophysics graduation party in your honor	Noon, Graduation Day

Notes:

1. CSM deadline for committee appointment is start of 3rd semester.
2. Application for Admission to Candidacy must be filed at beginning of 3rd semester.
3. MS students register for reduced tuition after completing 36 hours of course and research credit and submitting Admission to Candidacy form.
4. General recommendation for success: meet with your committee at least once each semester! Once you begin your research, meet with your advisor at least once each week!